

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 16907 291401Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7629

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 16907

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE EYES ONLY FOR BRZEZINSKI

REF: STATE 284067

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S TRIP: SCHEDULE

1. I DISCUSSED PROPOSED SCHEDULE AND RELATED QUESTIONS
CONVEYED IN REFTEL WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY THIS MORNING AND
ALSO OVER THE PHONE WITH PRIME MINISTER. DCM MET THIS
AFTERNOON WITH CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AND OTHER MEA OFFICIALS.

2. GOI IS PLEASED WITH DATES. PRIME MINISTER TOLD ME
THAT HE WILL GLADLY REARRANGE HIS AHMEDABAD COMMITMENT
ON JANUARY 3.

3. INDIANS LIKE THE NEW SCHEDULE, WITH TWO EXCEPTIONS.
FIRST, THEY WOULD PREFER TO SEE WREATH-LAYING TAKE
PLACE EARLIER IN THE SCHEDULE, AS IS CUSTOMARY ON STATE
VISITS. SECOND, THEY WERE DISTINCTLY PUT OFF BY THE
IDEA OF HAVING THE JOINT DECLARATIONSIGNED IN AN
AREA ADJACENT TO THE GANDHI MEMORIAL. WE SHARE THEIR
VIEW THAT SUCH A LOCALE AND TIMING FOR THE JOINT
DECLARATION WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE AND EMBARRASSING.

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 16907 291401Z

INDIAN COUNTER PROPOSAL IS TO HAVE JOINT DECLARATION
SIGNING IN ASHOKA HALL AT RASTRAPATI BHAVAN ON MORNING
OF LAST DAY.

4. GOI ACCEPTS IDEA OF VILLAGE VISIT IN PRINCIPLE
AND MAY SUGGEST SOME ALTERNATIVE VILLAGES. IN
MEANTIME WE ARE WORKING UP REQUESTED PHOTOS

AND INFORMATION ON VILLAGE WE HAVE ALREADY HIT UPON
AS A POSSIBILITY.

5. GOI AS YET HAS NO FIRM PREFERENCE ON SITE FOR
CIVIC RECEPTION. THEY HAVE PROMISED TO ADVISE US
SOONEST. THEIR PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF A SUNDAY
AFTERNOON CROWD IS 300-700,000 AT EITHER SITE.

6. MEA HAS NOT YET COMPLETED ARRANGEMENTS WITH
PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS FOR USE OF CENTRAL
HALL OF PARLIAMENT FOR PRESIDENT'S SPEECH, BUT PROMISES
EARLY REPLY. EMBASSY WILL HAVE A VOICE IN DRAWING
UP GUEST LIST.

7. INDIANS WILL HAVE SOME SUGGESTIONS ON SCHEDULING,
PARTICULARY WITH RESPECT TO TIME OF WREATH-LAYING.

8. IF ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISIT IS MADE DURING
PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE MORNING NOVEMBER 30,
GOI WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SIMILAR RELEASE BY 2000 HOURS
LOCAL TIME NOVEMBER 30 IN ORDER TO MAKE NEXT
MORNING PAPERS.

9. COMMENT: POSTPONEMENT HAS HAD WELCOME RESULT
OF PRODUCING A BETTER SCHEDULE, MORE ACCOMMODATIVE
OF INDIAN WISHES AND MORE SUITED TO MEETING
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PAGE 03 NEW DE 16907 291401Z

PURPOSES OF PRESIDENT'S TRIP.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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